

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018

SOUTH FLORIDA

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WEATHER

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Low: 61
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Mulch ado

Want to get rid of your holiday tree? Parks are pinning for them. 1B

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Wayne Roustan answers your traffic questions. 1B

Go!



Airport upgrades aim to help travelers on the ground

Hate crime victim: 'I don't want to die'



More choice of stores, faster lines among changes

BY LARRY BARSZEWSKI | Staff writer

Get ready for a more pleasant travel experience at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

Just in time for the holidays, there are more places to eat and shop in Terminal 4. There's also new seating and charging stations, spacious restrooms and — coming soon — changes to the Customs area that will make life easier for international travelers.

Here is what you can expect to see in the next year at the airport, which is predicted to be the nation's fastest growing over the next 20 years.

■ An expanded U.S. Customs and Border Protection baggage claim area will open in

See AIRPORT, 12A



PHOTOS BY SUSAN STOCKER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Expanded restaurant choices (top) and a new Customs area designed for faster queuing await travelers at Terminal 4.

Broward man faces up to 30 years in stabbing; bias cases soar 20%

BY ERIKA PESANTES
Staff writer

The scar travels from Steven Woodson's sternum to his bellybutton, a visible marker of the day he was stabbed just for being a black man.

Almost two years later, the trauma remains raw, just under the surface.

Sometimes, he's right back in that moment. Running for his life across a parking lot in West Park. Holding his bleeding belly. His attacker chasing him and yelling: "I'm gonna f----- kill you, n-----"

"No, no, no. I don't want to die," Woodson remembers thinking as he ran.

In December, a jury found his attacker, Joel Hunt, 57, guilty of aggravated battery while committing a hate crime. The up-



Joel Hunt, left, was convicted of a hate crime for stabbing Steven Woodson.

graded hate crime charge doubles Hunt's potential maximum punishment to 30 years.

Hunt is expected to be sentenced early this year.

Hunt is the only person convicted of a hate crime in Broward County in 2017, according to the State Attorney's Office. Since 2014, prosecutors have filed 10 hate crime cases. Half are pending. Three offenders, including Hunt, have been

See HATE, 12A

Technology brings spike in skimmers at state gas pumps

Crooks go wireless to access your card

BY KYLE ARNOLD
Staff writer

The number of credit card skimmers found at Florida's gas stations is exploding as criminals are emboldened by new technology that makes it even easier to steal credit card information from unsuspecting motorists.

New devices found on the streets include wireless Bluetooth technology that allows data to be collected

without accessing skimmers, or skimmers inserted right into the credit card slot.

Gas stations have been also slow to adopt higher security chip credit cards because of the high cost of installing the hardware. Often, entire gas dispensers need to be replaced or expensive retrofits are required. Visa extended its deadline from 2017 to 2020 for gas stations to use chip credit cards without breaching liability.

The current skimmer technology would not work

See CARDS, 12A

YOUR NATION, YOUR WORLD

Chief justice speaks out on sexual harassment

Chief Justice John Roberts said that the federal court system needs to examine its rules to make sure employees can report wrongdoing if they are sexually harassed. 6A

California starts year with legal marijuana

It was the first state to legalize marijuana for medical use, in 1996. Today, Californians join a handful of other states that have already made it legal for recreational use. 12A

Trump has lunch with Scott, invites fans into Mar-a-Lago

BY ARIC CHOKEY
AND BRIAN BALLOU
Staff writers

When Donald Tarca Jr. set out to wave his Trump banner to the Donald Trump's motorcade Saturday, he had no idea he'd soon be shaking the president's hand.

Tarca, of Boynton Beach, was one of about 16 South Florida residents who Trump personally invited to his Mar-a-Lago home for a tour and photo op Saturday. "It was surreal," Tarca said. "He did make us regular people feel pretty darn special for a day."

Tarca is part of a group that calls itself the "Trump Squad" — when Trump

comes to town, the squad sets up on the Southern Boulevard bridge with signs and banners to show their support.

After the president returned from a golf outing Saturday, he passed the group again. But this time, Secret Service agents showed up to invite some of the supporters back to the president's Winter White House. For nearly two hours, the group toured the Trump's Palm Beach home, ate appetizers and took photos with the president.

"Talking with him was like talking with an old uncle you knew forever," Tarca said. The tour was among the highlights this

See TRUMP, 12A

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